



WORSHIP



GROW



LIVE



CARE



SERVE

Weekly STAR for May 1, 2022

3rd Sunday of Easter



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEEKLY
star



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

100th Anniversary Reflection by Toni Thompson

In Luke 3:11, John the Baptist tells us, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.” Sharing is an instinctive reflex in our human psyche. When we see another in need, we automatically and immediately search our closets or our pantries to see what we can give to someone who really needs help. A great example is how the community of Perinton responded to the terrible fire at the Pines of Perinton which left sixty-five people homeless. Before some of us could react to the disaster, the community had already fulfilled all material needs. Across the nation, every time there is a disaster – tornado, flood, fire – there is a generous outpouring of goods and money to help people we don’t even know get back on their feet and restore their lives.

Children share naturally – both tangible items as well as their affection. It is so touching to see little kids greet each other with a hug and with delight. When my godson, Max, as a very little boy, he was fascinated with minerals and stones. One time he discovered a little clear crystal which really intrigued him, but he immediately said, “Here, Aunt Toni. This is for you.” I still treasure that little crystal in my curio cabinet as a reminder of his generosity of spirit.

Just as important as sharing our material goods and our treasure is sharing in each other’s joys and sorrows. When someone becomes engaged and marries, or has a baby, or graduates from school, we rejoice with each other. Likewise, when someone falls ill, or suffers a loss, we are there with compassion and sympathy and encouragement. This, too, is a natural human response to someone else’s situation.

We are graced with the impulse to share by the Holy Spirit which binds us together in community. In the hymn “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” the words of the third stanza are,

“We share each other’s woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.”

This column will occasionally feature reflections or devotions from members of the congregation (as it does this week!) as one way that we practice discipleship and share ministry together. If you would like to contribute in the future, please contact one of the pastors.

★ Don't forget to look for this **star icon (★)** to easily identify the newest information each week

ARE YOU READY FOR WORSHIP?

Sunday at 8:55 am Worship with Communion

1. [Facebook Live](#)
2. [Watch On YouTube](#) – Subscribe to our channel
3. [Livestream on the website](#)



Worship the Living God

Lessons for Sunday, 5/1

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]; John 21:1-19

Lessons for Sunday, 5/8

Acts 9:36-43; John 10:22-30

Worship: Our worship time each week is on Sunday at 8:55 am (both in-person and livestream). Visit [Share in Worship](#) for information on how to participate in the livestream.

Altar Flowers: The flowers on the altar this week were given anonymously to the Glory of God and in honor of BLC's 100th Anniversary Celebration Year! Do you enjoy seeing flowers on the altar? Flowers may be donated to memorialize or celebrate a special event or person. *Contact the church office to place your order!*

★ **Pentecost Geraniums:** Order today! Pentecost Flower Orders: You are invited to order red geraniums (\$6.25 per plant) to help decorate our Sanctuary for Pentecost (**June 5**). Click [here](#) or find a paper order form in the Narthex. Place your order with payment in the offering plate or the Church Office mailbox in the upstairs hallway. Forms are due on or before **May 12!**



Looking for something to listen to on your morning walk? Away on Sunday? Want to reflect on the sermon a second time? Check out Bethlehem's podcast - **The Word from Bethlehem Lutheran Church**. Listen to Sunday's gospel and sermon each week. Visit <https://blcfairport.org/the-word/> to listen and subscribe on Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon or Apple Podcasts.

100th Anniversary News

100 YEARS

Today, we welcome our anniversary guest, Rev. Richard Hembrock as he leads us in worship. A "son of Bethlehem," Pastor Hembrock grew up in Fairport and was baptized, confirmed, and ordained at BLC. Now retired, he and his wife, Marilyn, who accompanied him today, are currently active members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Smithsburg, MD. You are invited to join us in the sanctuary following the service for an informal Meet & Greet with the Hembrocks. Read more about Pastor Hembrock in today's bulletin.

Next Sunday, May 8, we welcome two anniversary guests. Rev. Jane Floy Nicholson (Associate in Ministry 1996-2003) will preach and preside and Karie Schroer Templeton (Director, Chancel Choir 1984-1988) will direct the Chancel Choir. Pastor Nicholson, who now serves as pastor of First

Lutheran Church in Chambersburg, PA, will be coming with her husband, Mark, whom she met during her time at BLC. Karie, retired after teaching forty years in the Pittsford Schools, now oversees the choral program at the Eastman School of Music Community Music School. Contact Jim Jefferis if you would like to sing the anthem with the Chancel Choir under Karie's direction. An informal Meet & Greet in the sanctuary with both Pastor Nicholson and Karie will follow worship.

On **Sunday, May 15** we invite the entire congregation, from our youngest to our oldest, to participate in a one-of-a-kind event. Following worship - weather permitting - we ask everyone to move outside to the steps at the front entrance for a congregational photo in honor of our 100 years. The photo will be taken by a camera-equipped drone. If the weather is inclement, we will default to a conventional photo (no drone!) in the sanctuary. We would like to have as many as possible included in this anniversary photo. Please plan to participate!

Have you checked out the updated photos and videos of recent anniversary events on our church website? Go to blcfairport.org, click on 100 Anniversary in the top right corner and then choose a button. Clicking on the Event Media button will take you to photos of our past events. The Worship & Receptions button will allow you to view videos of these same events.

If you would like a pdf version of Pastor Garner's April 3 sermon, email Bob Stock at robertphyllis33@gmail.com.

Grow in Faith and Discipleship

Faith Formation in May: Pre-K to 5th grade and Confirmation (6-8th grade) will be in the Sunday School wing on **May 1, 8, 15 & 22** at 10:15 am! See the Live Section for info on the Youth Group night event on 5/1.

Midweek Bible Study: Curious about David as King of Israel? Join midweek Bible Study starting on as we continue to read 2 Samuel. No prior experience necessary! Join us on Wednesdays at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall or on Zoom using the 'join now' button in the [Calendar of Events](#) to join.

Live Our Faith in Daily Life

LYO is now Youth Group (for Confirmation and LYO)! LYO will be changing its meeting time for the remainder of the year! We are very excited to announce that we will be having Youth Group the first Sunday of each month from 6-7:30 pm in the LYO room. Confirmation and LYO students are welcome! This will feel like a mini lock in with games, fellowship, and bible study. RSVP on the [Calendar of Events](#) listing for **May 1**. Please contact Bethany Trippi with any questions.

★ **Men's Breakfast...Wednesday, May 4:** Gather with the men of BLC to share good food and informal Christian fellowship. The group will meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 8 am at The Landmark Restaurant in East Rochester. For further information, contact [Wayne Westcott](#).

★ **Save the dates for a BLC/LYO Campout:** Get your camping gear ready, BLC LYO/Confirmation students are going camping! Please keep the weekend of **July 15 - 17** open for a fun fill day or two with your BLC peers. Further details to come soon.

Care for One Another

★ **BLC Card Ministry:** Linnea Donahower celebrates a May birthday on the 23rd! Continued thanks for your dedication to this ministry. Don't forget to take advantage of the cards in the Narthex! Contact [Donna Berner](#) to learn more about this ministry.

A Support Group for caregivers: If you are caregiving for a loved one (elderly parent, spouse, relative or anyone dear to you), feel free to join us! We meet on alternating Tuesdays at 2 pm in person in the Fellowship Hall (with masks). Upcoming dates are **May 10 & 24**. The participants share with and learn from each other; this is not a lecture or class! If you have ANY questions, or you would like to join but are unable to meet in person, please contact Pastor Hoffman.

Serve Our Neighbor

The M&SC Committee explores social and justice issues and has conversations within the committee to understand our individual and world view. Our collective goal is a congregation actively engaged in our local and world communities by being allies, advocates and activists (AAA) with our mission partners. ***New members or visitors to the M&SC committee, ideas about new ministries, and different views and paradigms for engaging in mission are welcome and encouraged.*** Join us for one or all of our upcoming meetings. We will meet virtually on Tuesday, **May 10** at 6:15 pm. You can join through on BLC's [calendar of events](#). Please reach out to Julie Owen at jowen@heritagechristianservices.org with interests or questions.

The Mission Focus for the season of Easter is World Hunger! Hungering for more information?

- Visit <https://blcfairport.org/world-hunger-appeal/> to view and print monthly calendars with links to recipes. There are also copies available in the Narthex, or you can contact the church office to have one mailed!
- Be a Hunger Activist! Sign up now at [M&SC: BLC Hunger Activists \(signupgenius.com\)](#) to claim your week! Be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page to submit. Hunger Activists provide and deliver 20 of one item to the Pines of Perinton Mini Food Cupboard sometime during the week. Due to active BLC involvement last year, there are three

slots for each week. The Mini Food Cupboard is on the road that circles around the apartments and is located by the maintenance shed. Enter from either Route 250 or Whitney Rd.

Questions? Contact Beth Walker at rbowsend@rochester.rr.com

★ **Second Sunday Dinner Ministry:** BLC delivers (we have not returned to onsite meals) around 50 hot meals on the second Sunday to those in need in our community. The next BLC date is Sunday, **May 8**. Other local churches provide meals on the other Sundays. For more information about this ministry and how to get involved, please contact David Gerhardt (dgerha4616@aol.com) who coordinates the kitchen efforts or Toni Thompson (thompsonjandt@yahoo.com) who schedules the drivers & deliveries.



Council News

★ **April Council Highlights** - The BLC Council met on April 21st. Highlights from this month are:

- A Special Congregational Meeting will be held 5/15/22 to approve changes to the Constitution Bylaws allowing for the creation of an Investment in Ministry Fund (IMF).
- Council is recommending transferring \$25,000 from Memorial Fund to the IMF (provided bylaw passed by the congregation) in order to formally establish the fund. The congregation will be asked to affirm this recommendation as part of the Special Congregational meeting.
- Council encourages you to participate in Q&A sessions being hosted by the IMF team.
- Co-Pastors are in the process of planning and inviting the Bethlehem community to participate in workshops in May as we continue listening to one another and discern how God is calling us to Build Lasting Community for the future.
- The Sharing Our Blessings Committee is working toward recommendations to present to Council in July.
- Financial Updates: Fiscal Year-To-Date receipts are down 4% compared to budget while expenses are on plan.

The Council will next meet on **May 19th** at 6:30 pm. BLC Council members are: Brian Edwards, Aderyn Gantner, Andy Gates, Margie Gaul, Mike Higgins, Glenda Lockard, Lisa Meetze, Lisa Rosenbauer, Liana Thibault, Toni Thompson.

★ The **Re-Opening Team** met on April 26 to review BLC's COVID protocols. The CDC's current risk guidance for Monroe County is HIGH, which includes the recommendation to mask when indoors. BLC will continue with current protocols in place and the Re-Opening Team will meet again on May 17 to determine what next steps, if any, will be taken. We encourage everyone to obtain the vaccines (and/or boosters) for which they are eligible.

WORSHIP and SINGING – Masks are required when gathered for worship. Worship leaders may remove their masks when in a leadership role (ex. speaking, praying, chanting, etc). We encourage anyone who is sick or experiencing COVID-related symptoms to share in worship through livestream.

ALL OTHER CHURCH ACTIVITIES – We trust individuals to gauge their own comfort with risks and will post information about CDC mask guidance. As a result of this change all non-worship and non-singing activities at BLC will be mask-optional. We continue to practice love and care of our neighbors by honoring one another in making choices to wear masks or not. We have obtained KN-95 masks to share with people who wish to continue to remain masked while participating in activities at BLC.

- In-person, indoor fellowship activities may resume.
- All food and beverages must remain in the designated space and not be brought into other rooms.
- All Faith Formation activities are mask optional.

Sharing Our Blessings Update: The team continues to work through the process of identifying one or more organizations that will help us fulfill our goals of helping our community and engaging our congregation. To that end the team has developed a list of 12 – 15 area non-profits to whom we will send a grant application to be completed and returned to BLC over the next month. The potential participants include some organizations that we already know through the Missions & Social Concerns Committee, some that were brought to the team's attention in our congregational survey and others in the local community.

The grant application that we will use is a simple four-page document that will allow the team to understand how the organization would use BLC's financial resources to improve the lives of those in our community and will answer some basic questions about the objectives, people, and resources of the potential grantee. One of the most important things we want to understand will be how a given applicant aligns with the mission categories that are the most important to the people of BLC.

The team has one ask for those in the BLC community that would like to help with our effort. We are looking for volunteers to be a part of the grant evaluation and selection process. If you have the tolerance to read through the grant response documents (we estimate 5-9 pages each), evaluate them using criteria that the team has come up with, and engage in group discussion and decision-making process we would love to have your help. We expect this will be done in a series of meeting during the month of May, with the objective of having a recommendation to Council in July. If you are interested or have questions send me an email: Alan.Sleeman@blcfairport.org

Sharing Our Blessings Team

Cathy Gottermeier, Alli O'Malley, Julie Owen, Lisa Rosenbauer, Alan Sleeman, Pr. Amy Walter-Peterson

Special Congregational Meeting - Bethlehem will hold a **Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 15 at 10:15 am** (following worship) for the purpose of approving changes to the Bylaws allowing for the creation of an Investment in Ministry Fund (IMF). This meeting will be held in person and only those present may vote. According to Bethlehem's Constitution, changes to the Bylaws require a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting. Copies of the proposed Bylaws are available by contacting the church office. To learn more about these proposed Bylaws, plan to attend one of the upcoming informational sessions hosted by the IMF Team (below).

The BLC Investment in Ministries Team will be hosting four Q&A Sessions to prepare for the upcoming Special Congregational meeting on Sunday, **May 15** when the congregation will vote on adopting Bylaws to formally establish the Investment in Ministries Fund for BLC. We want you to be well-informed to make this important decision that will impact the future of BLC for years to come. For more information, visit <https://blcfairport.org/imf-info/> and plan to join one of these sessions:

- Monday, **May 2** – Virtual session at 7:00 PM (Click the Calendar of Events to join)
- Wednesday, **May 4** – In person at church after Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.
- Monday, **May 9** – Virtual session at 7:00 PM (Click the Calendar of Events to join)

★ **IMF Goal for Our 100th Anniversary:** As we near the end of our year-long 100th Anniversary Celebration, we thank God for the many people and events that have shaped our growth and prosperity over time and we look ahead with excited anticipation at what is still to come in the NEXT 100 years.

At the meeting on Sunday, **May 15th**, we will be asking you to vote to approve the Bylaws which will formally establish the Investment in Ministries Fund for BLC an endowment fund designed to expand the ministries supported by BLC. If the Bylaws are approved, the IMF team will launch a plan of activities, education and solicitation to make the NEXT 100 Years a strong testament to the faith and dedication of our congregation.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact any member of the IMF Team: Paulette Costanza, Roger Kolker, Neil Vokes, Mark Gaul, John Panko, or John Costanza.

We Ask Your Prayers:

We pray for those whose thanks or needs are known to us.

We pray for the community of First Baptist Church of Fairport whose closing worship service will take place on Sunday, May 1 at 1 pm. For their faithful service in the gospel and as they celebrate the end of their ministry, we give thanks to God.

We pray for those who are grieving, especially the family and friends of:

- William (father of Julie Owen) who died on 4/27
- Chris Heim (former BLC member) who died on 4/25
- Lee (Uncle of Chris Meetze) who died on 4/21
- Jim Stalker (cousin of Howard Sharp) who died on 4/13

We pray for those in need of healing, especially:

- Valerie (cousin of Julie Stolze) who is hospitalized and in a coma following a cardiac arrest
- Martha Grasberger who is recovering from knee replacement surgery on 4/1
- Morey Rasbeck who is hospitalized after a fall on 4/25
- LeRoy Bittner (father of Sue Cardinal) who is recovering from anticipated back surgery on 4/26
- Tom Rielly (father of Lisa Meetze) who has entered palliative care and is hospitalized after a recent fall
- Donna Wells (friend of Chris Meetze) who has breast cancer and is beginning chemo
- Ning Rasch (friend of Chris Meetze) who is permanently blind due to a complication following heart surgery
- Those who are caregivers for loved ones
- Those who are ill from Coronavirus and all who care for them

★ **We Pray for Each Other** – Each Sunday in worship we give thanks and offer prayers for those in our community whose celebrations or needs are known to us. Requests for prayers are shared in our monthly prayer listing as well, with updates available the first Sunday of each month. If you have a prayer request or an update of an existing prayer need for yourself, a family member, or friend, you can easily submit them digitally via the “pew card” at <https://blcfairport.org/share-in-worship/>. Alternately they can be shared by contacting the church office or a pastor.

Click here to view and print the [May long-term prayer listing](#) – or contact the church office for a copy!

Community News

★ **Open Door Mission's 22nd Annual Golf Classic:** This event is being held on Monday, May 23, 2022 at Midvale Country Club to help support vital programs and services that ultimately restore hope and transform lives in our community. 9 am registration, 10 am grazing breakfast, 12 pm Shot Gun Start (scramble format) Register at <https://birdease.com/ODM2020GolfClassic2022>

★ **Join us to learn more about Ukrainian families arriving in the United States.** On the heels of President Biden's announcement of his plan to welcome 100,000 Ukrainians to the United States, LIRS and our partners present Ukraine Crisis Update: Welcoming Our Ukrainian Neighbors on Tuesday, May 3 at 3 p.m. ET. This webinar will provide an update on the current situation and the latest pathways to safety for those fleeing Russian aggression. Join us to learn more about [what you can do](#) to support Ukrainians seeking safety, our [Stand Up, Speak Up program](#), and how communities like yours can prepare to welcome our newest neighbors.

Panelists include:

Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, President and CEO, LIRS

Olga Kvashenko, Caseworker, Ascentria Care Alliance

Chelsey Johnson, Network Organizer, LIRS

Megan Bracy, Director of Resettlement and Integration Services, LIRS

[Register to join us live on Zoom](#) on 5/3!

★ **Learn more about the work of the ELCA** beyond our walls by reading our [Bishop's Spring Report to the Upstate New York Synod](#). In addition, like the Synod's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/upstatenysynod>) to view 9@9 devotions and reflections Monday through Thursday.

Day of Caring - May 19, 2022! Day of Caring matches thousands of volunteers - all on one day - with local nonprofit agencies who have identified needs such as painting, raking, cleaning up parks, planting community gardens, etc. For the first time in its 36-year history, Day of Caring will take place across Monroe, Livingston, Genesee, Wyoming, Wayne, and Ontario County on the same day. More than 300 projects have already been registered by over 150 nonprofits! Day of Caring is powered by the United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes. Learn more: <https://unitedwayroclx.org/news-events/day-of-caring/>

Key Dates:

- May 12, 2022 - Volunteer Registration Closes
- May 19, 2022 - Day of Caring!

Announcements for the STAR should be submitted through the office by Wednesday morning at 9 am. Visit www.blcfairport.org and to sign up for reminders and special announcements (including the STAR!)



48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY ~ (585) 223-0634 ~ www.blcfairport.org



<https://www.facebook.com/BLCfairport/>

Calendar for May 1 – May 8

(Last updated on 4/27/22 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, 5/1

100th Anniversary Sunday

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guests:
Rev. Richard Hembrock
(in-person and
livestream)
10:15 am 100th
Anniversary Q&A and
conversation with guests
(in-person
and livestream)
10:15 am Faith
Formation
11:15 am Children's
Choir
6:00 pm Youth Group (for
grades 6-12, RSVP
requested)

Monday, 5/2

7:00 pm 100th Anniversary
Planning Committee
Meeting ([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 851 0778 6445)
7:00 pm Virtual BLC
Investment in Ministries
Fund (IMF) Q&A
([Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 872 7338 5832)

Tuesday, 5/3

6:30 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

Wednesday, 5/4

8:00 am Men's Breakfast
at The Landmark
Restaurant
9:30 am Bible Study –
(in-person or
[Join](#) via Zoom –
ID 943 3691 2942)
11:15 am BLC Investment
in Ministries Fund (IMF)
Q&A (in-person)
6:00 pm Chancel Bells
6:15 pm Folk Group
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, 5/5

7:00 pm BLC Quilters

Friday, 5/6

Pastor's Sabbath

2:30 pm Dulcimer
Group Rehearsal

Saturday, 5/7

2:00 pm Troop 208 Eagle
Court of Honor

Sunday, 5/8

100th Anniversary Sunday

8:55 am Worship with
Communion with guests:
Rev. Jane Floy Nicholson
& Karie Schroer
Templeton (in- person
and livestream)
10:15 am 100th
Anniversary Q&A and
conversation with guests
(in-person
and livestream)
10:15 am Faith
Formation
11:15 am Children's
Choir
11:45 am 2nd Sunday
Dinner Ministry
(delivery only)

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M - F from 9 am to 12 noon. Our co-Pastor's schedules vary from week to week. Both are available for scheduled appointments.

Zoom Meetings at BLC: The easiest way to join is to use the direct link available in the [Calendar of Events](#) on our website. If you don't see your meeting in the Calendar of Events or have questions, please contact your group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details!

In-Person Meetings at BLC: Submit details at <https://blcfairport.org/blc-facility-request/> for each planned meeting, event and activity at BLC. This allows us to check for availability, reserve the space, and plan accordingly. Please contact the church office to confirm or with any questions following your submission.
